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General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Identical letters dated 10 March 2017 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach herewith a statement released by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine in which it condemns the law passed by Israel's Knesset to ban the Muslim call to prayer (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Annex to the identical letters dated 10 March 2017 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Lack of international accountability has encouraged the occupiers to enact the racist "Muezzin Law"

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemns in the strongest possible terms the Israeli Knesset's approval on first reading of what has become known as the "Muezzin Law". It is yet another instance of the racist legislation that the ruling right in Israel is falling over itself to enact daily with the goal of reinforcing the occupation, gradually imposing Israeli law on Occupied Palestinian Territory and further entrenching its despicable apartheid policy as part of a single-State solution. The law's approval comes as part of the ongoing competition among right-wing factions to appease their extremist settler constituencies. It constitutes a further provocation of Palestinians that will promote enmity and hatred between followers of the divinely revealed religions in Palestine instead of a culture of tolerance and peace.

The Ministry believes that being content with issuing purely formal protests against the law without any practical deterrent measures has emboldened the Government of Benjamin Netanyahu to move ahead with legislative procedures to pass this law in particular, and to push ahead in general with institutionalizing its despicable apartheid regime in Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Ministry calls on the international community and the relevant United Nations agencies to urgently intervene to prevent passage of this law and to guarantee freedom of worship and access to holy places in Palestine. Holding Israel accountable and imposing sanctions for its racist legislation and major human rights violations is the only way to deter the occupation and compel compliance with internationally recognized resolutions.